



Community Needs Survey 2003

Office of Community Development
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301 West Bagdad, Suite 140
Round Rock, Texas 78664
Phone: 512.218.5416
Fax: 512.341.3152

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1998 Round Rock has been an entitlement city receiving community development block grant funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Community Needs Survey is a tool used by the City of Round Rock to assist in the development of priorities for the Five Year Consolidated Plan and the Community Development Annual Plan (CDAP) that are required by HUD. Each year the city identifies activities and programs to fund with federal dollars it receives through the block grant program.

The citizen participation plan adopted by the City of Round Rock requires that public hearings and stakeholder meetings are held to gather input on needs and how best to use the federal money. Since participation in public hearings is minimal, the survey was developed as a means to reach more citizens. Following this narrative are tables showing how citizens prioritized needs in the housing, basic services, and neighborhood and economic development areas. This information will be taken into consideration when the draft annual plan becomes available for review June 2, 2003 for a 30 day comment period.

2003 COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

During March, 2003, 25,000 surveys were distributed through utility bills and 3,000 mailed directly or hand delivered to apartment complexes. Cut off date for receiving surveys was April 25, 2003.

Surveys returned: 2.5%

Demographics:

87% Homeowners
13% Renters
2.5 Avg household size
\$936 Avg. housing payment
\$3,499 Avg. monthly income

RANK ROUND ROCK'S NEEDS

Citizens were asked to assign a priority to different needs in housing, basic services, and neighborhood & economic development. Before analyzing the data, the top and bottom ten percent were eliminated to develop a median baseline. Categories are ranked from high to low, with the number 5 being the highest priority. The following table ranks the survey priorities by category.

Housing	"5" Highest	"4" High	"3" Medium	"2" Low	"1" Lowest
Homeless Shelters	10%	9%	16%	19%	28%
Emergency Shelters	15%	15%	22%	19%	12%
Affordable Apts.	12%	11%	15%	17%	25%
Down Payment Assistance	18%	19%	20%	11%	15%
Affordable SF Homes	25%	21%	16%	12%	13%
Home Repair/Rehab	17%	20%	21%	14%	11%
Other ¹					

Services

Child Care	28%	20%	17%	9%	10%
Job Training	23%	21%	22%	11%	7%
Battered/Abused	23%	22%	21%	10%	7%
Youth Programs	30%	25%	20%	5%	5%
AIDS Services	7%	9%	20%	21%	18%
Drug/Alcohol Abuse	9%	13%	28%	17%	13%
Improve Accessibility for Disabled	15%	16%	24%	15%	10%
Elderly Programs	24%	24%	23%	7%	6%
Other ²					

Neighborhood and Economic Development

Create/Retain jobs for low income people	25%	18%	18%	13%	8%
Small business loans in poor neighborhoods	14%	16%	26%	12%	10%
Financing community facilities	19%	17%	25%	12%	6%

¹ Write in comments with multiple variables. See page 4 for details.

² Write in comments with multiple variables. See page 4 for details.

Housing “Other” Category Write-Ins

“5” Highest	“4” High	“3” Medium	“2” Low	“1” Lowest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> senior job training larger senior exemption more homestead owner exemption amount more affordable rent for small business monitor people when placed in living places-for extra live-in people helping senior citizens 	Code enforcement			

Services “Other” Category Write-Ins

“5” Highest	“4” High	“3” Medium	“2” Low	“1” Lowest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mental health services provide financial assistance for needy persons and transportation more 2 bedroom low incomes housing public transportation transportation for elderly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MHMR elderly housing police 			

YOU CREATE A BUDGET

Participants in the survey were asked to divvy up a \$100 budget on programs they felt the city needed most. In some cases, the amount “spent” did not equal \$100, therefore causing the results to be a little short of the available funds.

Budget	Program
\$ 7.00	More affordable apartments
6.00	Homeless shelters
11.00	More affordable single family houses
10.00	Small business loans
19.00	Youth programs
16.00	Child care services
7.00	Drug/alcohol abuse treatment
12.00	Adult education
7.00	Other ³
\$95.00	

³ Refer to write in comments for “Other” on page 5.

Budget “Other” Write In Category

The values of the written comments represent the \$7.00 in the “Other” budget category. Listed below are categories and their assigned budgets.

\$50	accessibility for disabled affordable and educational after school programs	\$10	MHMR	\$50	make city bicycle friendly
\$40		\$10	money to help pay utility bills more affordable house for low income family	\$15	mental health
\$60	aid senior citizens on housing aids and battered spouse services	\$25		\$10	senior exemptions
\$15		\$30	on the job training with business	\$20	senior programs services and housing for seniors / disables
\$10	aids services	\$25	open spaces	\$60	
\$12	aids services	\$25	Park improvement park maintenance & improvements	\$25	shopping mall
\$15	aids services	\$30		\$50	shopping mall small business /ownership
\$50	aids services	\$10	parks	\$30	education/opportunities maintaining neighborhood lands
\$20	assisted living coops	\$10	parks	\$50	senior center
\$25	battered & abused	\$10	parks	\$50	lower taxes for elderly
\$40	battered & abused	\$15	parks	\$70	
\$40	battered & abused	\$15	parks	\$25	schools
\$5	battered spouse	\$20	parks	\$10	Temp housing
\$25	battered spouse	\$20	parks	\$20	traffic containment
\$10	bike trails	\$20	parks	\$30	Transportation for elderly
\$30	bus service	\$20	parks	\$50	Transportation for elderly
\$20	child abuse	\$20	parks	\$50	Transportation for elderly waste management planning
\$10	city parks	\$25	parks	\$20	
\$50	college education	\$25	parks		
\$40	crime watch	\$25	parks		
\$30	day care for senior citizens	\$30	parks		
\$25	disabled person access	\$30	parks		
\$25	dog park	\$40	parks		
\$5	elder programs	\$40	parks		
\$20	elderly elderly and disabled persons programs	\$50	parks		
\$5		\$50	parks		
\$20	elderly programs	\$70	parks		
\$20	elderly programs	\$75	parks		
\$15	emergency shelter	\$100	parks		
\$25	emergency shelter	\$2	parks and walking trails parks, playground, beautification		
\$30	emergency shelter	\$20	Parks ,playgrounds, pools		
\$78	family planning birth control	\$20	parks, playgrounds, pools		
\$10	fire, police	\$70	police		
\$20	Golf course in RR	\$10	public transportation		
\$25	healthcare	\$40	public transportation Rec. center for west Round Rock		
\$100	help for elderly	\$100	road repair		
\$100	hike and bike trails	\$50	road repair		
\$100	home energy audit	\$20	road repair		
\$10	home repair loans	\$20	roads		
\$25	I & R program	\$60	schools		
\$10	Infrastructure	\$10			
\$25	legal aid	\$10			
\$20	lower property taxes	\$20			

YOUR COMMENTS

This section of the survey gave citizens the opportunity to share their personal thoughts about housing and community development services in Round Rock. Responses are typed exactly as written.

1. a park within walking distance
2. affordable apartments for elderly
3. affordable homes for low income families
4. affordable housing does not mean cheap - solid well built cottages suit many different families. Let the community help build them and teach homeowners how to care properly for a house.
5. African American beauty Salons- there are none here. I go to Killeen, Austin, Pflugerville
6. annex chandler creek into Round Rock
7. apartments are priced too high
8. as a single mother I find it hard financially to live in Round Rock, the cost of living is higher, but I did not want to raise my son in a bad area because it was cheaper
9. As I have noted we need more affordable apts- and more affordable single family house!!!
10. assisted living and in home care for the elderly- at an affordable price
11. Better lighted areas
12. Builders Integrity
13. Bumpy streets-I can't drink out of a standard coffee mug until I'm on I35 (Water line work on Garden Path Drive has left it uneven
14. Communities in Round Rock are incredibly well planned. Consideration for zoning changes should be more stringent with regard to businesses residence
15. community meeting facilities in every neighborhood park extensive use of volunteers in all neighborhoods
16. continue to develop new youth programs
17. continued community development with major consideration of hike/bike trails connecting to parks
18. creating and retaining jobs is very important, extensive running trails
19. develop and maintain greenspace in subdivision to give children and families a playscape near home they can walk to.
20. Develop small community buses (hydrogen fueled) to serve neighborhoods and schools
21. Disabled and Elderly should use park services for free and the Georgetown courthouse municipal building should be handicapped accessible
22. Don't build a shelter - let Austin have them
23. Don't build anymore until your road & highway structure can accommodate current residents
24. don't give out any more money. We already have enough low-lives around here
25. Downtown RR needs work
26. enforce code restrictions- cars-abandoned in yards, weeds-High grass, trash piles and fences falling down
27. far too much land is zoned MF in SE round rock
28. get the water/sewer bill down
29. give buyer of new house long range plan for certain area
30. give people who want to work the resources to succeed
31. Good job! Round Rock is a nice place to live
32. have a better system for needed housing need to better distribute \$ to real needy people
33. Have you ever thought about neighborhood beautification programs? They do that in Tucson, Arizona
34. House is to expensive for anyone who does not work 2-3 or 4 jobs
35. Housing & community development are growing to fast and the cost of living getting higher
36. I believe youth programs are very important for the health of our children
37. I don't think Round Rock should support people who won't support themselves
38. I feel that too many people get government assistance
39. I feel their needs to be more deed restrictions east of I35. The neighborhoods are looking very bad & lowering the cost of resell
40. I hate the Robin Hood thing. It angers me that so much of my income is sent away from my area when I am so poor my kids go without
41. I have lately noticed many people who can not afford lawyers for divorce or child custody etc. how can people have a chance at a good outcome without any legal advice? We need a legal aid clinic
42. I love RR, Good balance of parks, homes, and schools
43. I love the care & quality of the Round Rock memorial Park along Brushy Creek
44. I think the Clay Madsen Rec Center was a wonderful addition. I believe adding community swimming pools would be a nice addition
45. I would like to see more affordable condo's for middle class income
46. I would like to see more playgrounds and activities at parks in mesa village
47. Improve crime watch programs
48. In my opinion Round Rock is growing to fast and will soon loose it's Home town appeal
49. It seems we need more affordable housing
50. jobs and job training

51. keep building restrictions tight
52. Keep the low-income people in the low income areas, we worked harder, paid more to live in our community
53. keep in existing neighborhoods i.e. Empty homes from appearing empty mowing the yards
54. less taxes
55. let city government focus on infrastructure and removing roadblocks to the private sector, provide affordable housing.
56. lets not encourage homeless or low-income people to come here
57. Like every other city RR didn't prepare for growth and now will never catch up
58. look to private corporations since government is so restrained at this time & seek ways to promote a medical school & hospital in Round Rock
59. love fence going on sunrise need access to main street
60. lower property taxes
61. lower property taxes
62. lower taxes
63. maintain parks
64. Many of the parks are in need of rehab and need new playground equipment
65. more activities for children and better accessibility for disabled
66. More affordable apartments and freezing all taxes is extremely vital
67. more kid/teen programs; a few places to hang out
68. more local parks
69. more non-sport recreation programs, with better hours
70. More parks
71. More police
72. more security
73. more security in the road and house
74. more senior housing
75. need a concert hall, small theater
76. need better traffic flow
77. need to reduce taxes on property owners, school taxes too high
78. Need to control zoning so each new housing development uses existing access to main arterials vs cutting new entrances every 100ft.
79. need to keep up with roads and highway or we will end up like traffic like Austin
80. needs service for senior housing and make senior housing affordable
81. Parks and youth programs
82. People should pay their own bills. Its not the communities job to give free shelter and food for people who will not work
83. plant trees on median or make a uniform stone wall instead of seeing broken fences
84. Please fix up the Housing Authority Playgrounds. Please better lighting where Haven backs into the field or put up a fence
85. please spend most money on community facilities and park and don't spend much to encourage low income folks in our community
86. Property taxes too high
87. Property taxes too high
88. recode, so low income or employee can live in industrial areas, commercial areas, over business
89. Rentals are very costly- encourage home ownerships
90. roadside beautification projects
91. Round Rock has great parks and clean housing for the elderly, the low income apartment near us are so dirty wouldn't want more things like that
92. Round Rock is doing a fine job on infrastructure, but we need some social services for our needy population
93. Round Rock is no longer affordable
94. Round Rock seems to court mid-upper income families I don't see a good amt of affordable apt & homes
95. RR needs low income neighborhoods
96. RRHA unable/unwilling to see past youthful indiscretions in order to provide Housing to elderly/disabled people which seems to be in violation of Fair Housing Act
97. safe affordable childcare needs to a priority for Round Rock. This will allow parents to work or learn without worrying about their children
98. senior center is great, Madsen recreation center is nice but expensive for elderly
99. Since we have so many house rented out we need to enforce neighborhood rules. Yard are a mess & too many cars
100. strengthen neighborhood association, help protect property values by enforcing zoning in neighborhood
101. stop building apartments
102. taxes suck
103. the activities available are not made known well enough, it would be nice to have fliers or a known way to find out about programs
104. The city needs to check for peoples front lawn, have them trim and clean up their mess
105. The majority of our population will soon be baby boomers we need to prepare for this situation

106. the rent keeps going up every year more than I can afford, previous job no raise in three years
107. the senior center is poorly serviced and managed. Current leader tries hard
108. There should be a stipulation on low income housing residents that if they are assisted they have to do their part in taking care of the property
109. There are too many apartment complexes off of Gattis School Rd
110. There enough low income apartments how about a raise for the police and school teachers
111. There is a strong need for single moms with low income to have affordable apartment that are livable
112. There is an abundance of housing in Round Rock-most of it overpriced. RR needs more community swimming pools
113. there is not any cheap programs o get any children 3 and up. It's to expensive for everything
114. there just isn't enough housing for low income disables and senior citizen many need 2 bedrooms low income homes.
115. Thing to find affordable housing in Round Rock is a joke and Section 8 has a waiting list years long. I need help with child care
116. Time to slow down Building till roads and water/sewer is there and ready and enough schools and teachers
117. To have habitat programs for people that are in real need
118. too many apartments on the south side of town- build elsewhere
119. too many KB homes, need a north side recreation center
120. too much being spent on recreation centers. Overall taxes hurting long-time resident/seniors more senior tax relief.
121. urgent need for another facility like Clay Madsen Center
122. volunteer programs for kids so they become a part of the community. Assist the elderly and listen to their needs. We owe them they provided for us.
123. we are getting to many apartments and junky subdivisions with small houses and small lots
124. we are growing to fast
125. we are new to the area, so we are not sure what our community needs are.
126. We desperately need another Rec center like the Clay Madsen
127. we have enough apartments
128. we have enough low income apartments
129. we have way too much low income housing now. Let's improve what we have rather than add more
130. we must train adults, give youth creative things to do and help w/drug & alcohol abuse to make/keep our citizens productive
131. We need a recycling program. We need to cut down on the amount of waste we put in the landfill
132. we need a community park and pool in our area
133. we need condominiums in small complex, No more apartment complexes
134. we need less low income apartments in Round Rock
135. we need more affordable housing not apartments
136. we need more walking trails
137. We need not be a welfare source
138. we need to make it possible for low income families to own homes
139. we should build childcare services in new neighborhoods like we build schools in new neighborhoods
140. we thing it's need since there is not many jobs out there
141. what about historic homes
142. What is the status of the park that was to be built @ Gattis School & Lake Forest?
143. What was the total Mailing cost for this survey? Could you not get a bulk rate or send with water bill? 370
144. while looking for another house our #1 priority is finding a subdivision where city codes are enforced
145. Why all the money spent on Downtown Round Rock @ tax payers expense? What purpose was it for?
146. wish we did more recycling 2 trash pick ups a week now make one regular & one for recycle
147. would like to see a hike and bike trail
148. You have a desperate need for public transportation
149. you might want to institute a match program for medium-high income communities
150. you need more services for disabled children and you need more parks
151. youth programs are not affordable for middle income families the Park in our housing area is rocks and weeds

BLOCK GROUP RESPONSE AREAS

A map on the back of the survey was broken down by census block group areas. Each area was assigned a number that directly corresponded to the census block group number. Citizens were asked to fill in the number of the area they lived in. Major subdivisions were identified on the map to help people locate the general area they lived in. It must be noted, however, that 88 surveys did not have this part completed. The table below breaks down the number of responses from the different block groups.

Map Area Number	Census Tract	Blk Group #	# of Responses
1	207.01	1	8
2	207.01	3	2
3	215.03	3	9
4	215.02	1	21
5	206.02	2	1
6	206.02	1	2
7	207.04	3	10
8	207.04	2	23
9	215.03	2	10
10	215.02	2	11
11	215.03	1	18
12	207.04	1	10
13	207.05	1	93
14	215.01	3, 1	107
15	207.03	1	72
16	205.03	1	2
17	205.03		37
18	205.03	2	15
19	205.04	1	16
20	205.04	2	4
21	207.03	2	14
22	205.01	1	0
23	203.10	2	2
24	205.03	4	14
25	215.01	2	45
26	206.01	4	1
27	205.04	3	0
28	205.03	3	20
29	208.02	1	25